



General Management Plan Newsletter

Issue 1 Spring 2003

AMISTAD NATIONAL RECREATION AREA GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN – A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Friends,

Amistad National Recreational Area is beginning the development of a general management plan (GMP). Just as its name implies, this plan will provide a general framework to guide long-term park management decision-making, based on a vision of what people wish to see at Amistad in the future. We need your help in describing that vision and developing the overall management goals through which we will achieve it.

In developing a vision for the future of Amistad NRA it is important to review the park's purpose, its diverse cultural and natural resources, and its potential for public appreciation and understanding of these distinctive resources. This planning process will describe specific desirable resource conditions and visitor goals for the park's future and design alternate management strategies for achieving these goals. This planning process will be more successful if you share with us your own vision for the park's future.

As part of our planning process, we will be meeting with many federal, state, and local government agencies and officials as well as private organizations. Communication and cooperation with other government agencies will identify common interests and goals. Developing partnerships with other agencies can offer creative and efficient ways to achieve our future goals at Amistad. In fact, this type of cooperation is essential to developing a plan that meets the needs of the American public and fulfills the National Park Service mission to protect our most precious cultural and natural resources.

We will be preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) with the GMP, and your feedback is an important first step in scoping for the document.

Please join us in this effort to develop a plan that charts a sustainable future for Amistad NRA. After reading this newsletter, please use the enclosed response card to share your thoughts about the park with us and to get your name on the project mailing list. We will keep you informed throughout the planning process with public meetings, newsletters, postings on the web site, and a draft plan. If you have any comments or questions at any time, please feel free to contact us at:

Superintendent
Amistad National Recreation Area
HCR 3 Box 5J
Del Rio, TX 78840-9350
(830) 775-7491

You may e:mail us at: Amistad_planning@nps.gov
or visit the NPS Planning website at <http://www.planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>
Please accept our thanks in advance for your input and assistance in this important process. We appreciate your interest in Amistad National Recreation Area and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alan W. Cox
Superintendent
Amistad National Recreation Area



Amistad - Purpose of the park

In creating Amistad National Recreation Area (NRA), Congress directed the National Park Service to

“Provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the lands and waters associated with the United States portion of the reservoir known as Lake Amistad...and protect the scenic, scientific, cultural, and other values contributing to the public enjoyment of such lands and waters...”

The management and staff of Amistad NRA are dedicated to achieving Congress’ purpose. We need your help in developing the best strategy to assist us in serving visitors and protecting park resources for future generations.



What is a general management plan?

A general management plan defines the fundamental management direction for a unit of the national park system. It focuses on why the park was established and what resource conditions and visitor opportunities should be achieved and maintained over time. The plan provides park managers with a framework for making decisions about how to protect park resources, provide meaningful opportunities for visitors, manage visitor use, and determine the kinds of facilities necessary to fulfill the park's purposes.

Why do we do a general management plan?

- To create a vision and clear direction for the park's future
- To establish priorities for allocating resources
- to achieve park goals
- To exchange ideas with the public
- To forge and strengthen partnerships
- To comply with public law and National Park Service policies

A new general management plan will clarify Amistad's role in working with others in the region on resource protection, tourism, and local economic development. Park stakeholders will participate in developing and articulating a vision of why Amistad is here and where it is going in the future.



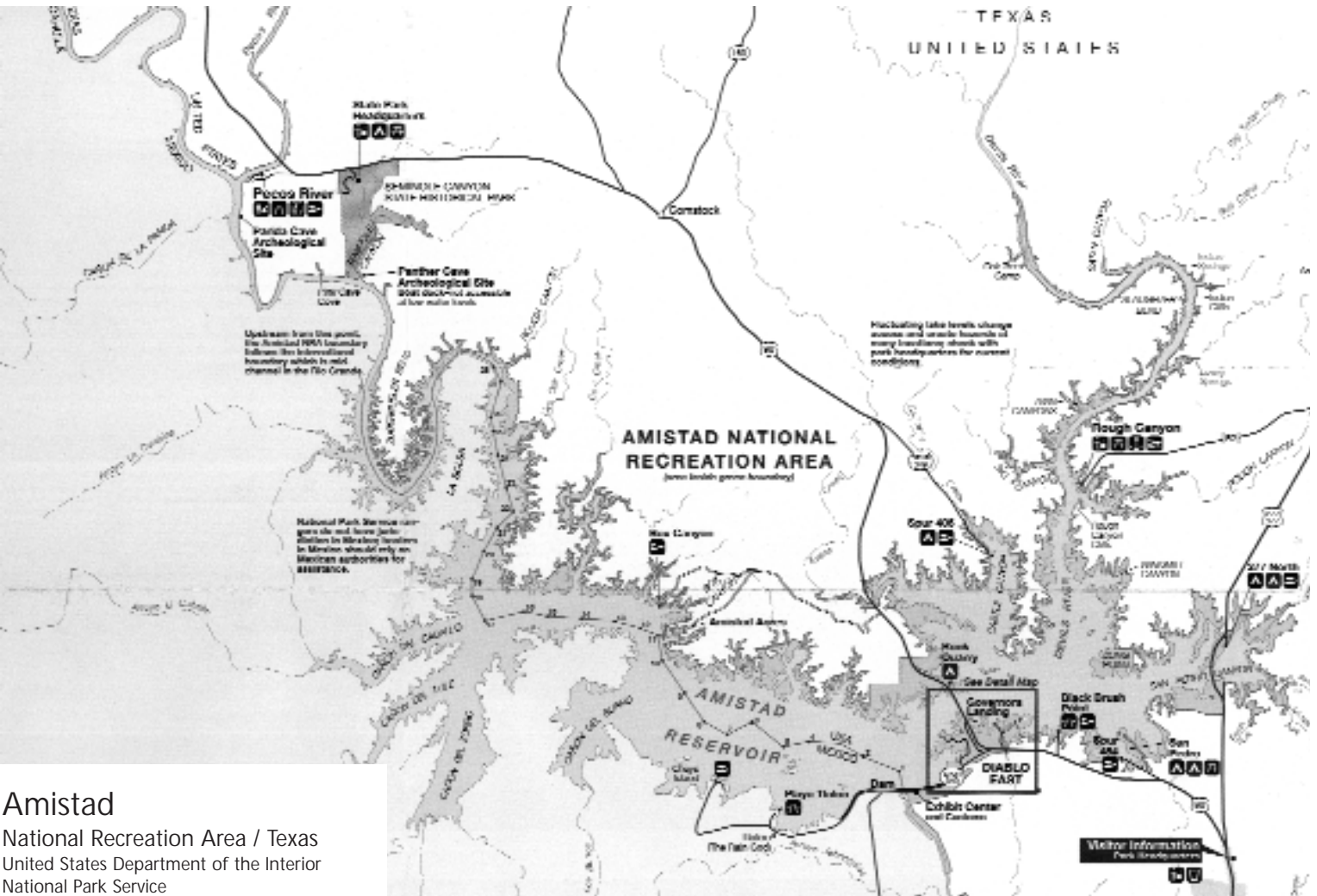
Meeting Dates and Times

Please come to one of the public meetings to find out more about this planning project, meet the park staff and planning team, and express your ideas about the park

April 15, 2003
Midland Convention Center
6:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. Open House and Workshop
105 North Main Street, Room 5
Midland, Texas

April 16, 2003
American Legion Post 667
6:00 P.M.- 8:00P.M. Open House and Workshop
504 Bowie Drive
Universal City, Texas

April 17, 2003
Del Rio Convention Center, Kennedy Room
6:00 P.M.- 8:00 P.M. Open House and Workshop
1915 Veterans Blvd.
Del Rio, Texas



Amistad
National Recreation Area / Texas
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The general management planning process is just beginning and will take about 2 1/2 to 3 years. Steps in the process are listed below.

General Management Plan (GMP)

- gather ideas and concerns
- confirm mission, purpose, and significance
- identify desired future conditions
- develop management alternatives
- Draft GMP and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Final GMP and EIS and Record of Decision (ROD)

The NPS Mission

Congress created the National Park Service in 1916 to "...conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

In fulfilling its mission, the National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Furthermore, the National Park Service is committed to protecting the scenic, scientific, cultural, natural, and other values that contribute to the public enjoyment of lands and waters at Amistad National Recreation Area. We are dedicated to conserving unimpaired the park's natural and cultural resources and values for the education and inspiration of this and future generations.